

**European Stables  
18781 N. Highway One  
Fort Bragg  
Case No. 1TMC030**

**Notice of No Further Action Related to Petroleum Discharges:**

Comment Period ends September 8, 2003.

**Problem Description:** In 1988, five underground storage tanks and associated piping were removed from the site. Initial groundwater testing detected elevated concentrations of total petroleum hydrocarbons as gasoline (TPHg) and diesel (TPHd), as well as benzene.

**Environmental Investigation:**

The site investigation from 1988 to 1994 consisted of installing and sampling monitoring wells MW-1 through MW-16. Between July 1997 and August 1998 domestic wells in the vicinity of the site were sampled and methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) was detected in concentrations ranging from 1 to 18 parts per billion (ppb). The primary maximum contaminant level (MCL) for MTBE is 13 ppb and the secondary MCL based on taste and odor is 5 ppb.

On November 2, 1998 the NCRWQCB issued Cleanup and Abatement Order No. 98-118 to both the responsible parties of European Stables and the adjacent Fort Bragg Oil. It required both parties to investigate the MTBE contamination plume and mitigate the pollution and nuisance conditions by providing potable water to residences with an impacted drinking supply. Initially, well-head treatment systems were placed on six domestic wells in June 1999. Other well-head treatment systems were subsequently added to domestic wells when MTBE was detected in other wells.

In October 2001, at the request of the NCRWQCB, an additional soil and grab groundwater investigation was conducted around the former tank location on the European Stables site. The purpose of this work was to investigate possible additional sources of groundwater contamination. Conclusions of this investigation revealed that there were no additional source areas at the European Stables property. No MTBE was detected in any soil or groundwater samples collected from seven boring locations across the property.

**Current Conditions**

Groundwater monitoring since 1988 shows that concentrations of petroleum hydrocarbons have declined on the European Stables site. No concentrations of TPHg or TPHd have been detected in onsite groundwater since October 2002. The most recent groundwater monitoring well results (April 2003) show that low concentrations of TPHg and TPHd are still present in wells related to the European Stables plume on the adjacent Fort Bragg Oil site. Currently, no MTBE has been detected in monitoring wells at either the European Stables or Fort Bragg Oil sites.

Low level concentrations of MTBE have been detected in the domestic wells at twelve residences downgradient of the site. Concentrations of MTBE in the domestic wells have declined to sporadic low level detections (<1.0 ppb). Most recent sampling shows that concentrations have declined to below laboratory detection limits (<0.5 ppb) in all but two wells (maximum detection 0.8 ppb).

Fort Bragg Oil is still in the process of investigating the source(s) of groundwater contamination on and offsite. Fort Bragg Oil will be continuing with the domestic and monitoring well sampling program.

**MTBE Status:**

No MTBE has been detected in recent sampling events from monitoring wells at either the European Stables or Fort Bragg Oil sites. Concentrations of MTBE in the domestic wells have declined to sporadic low level detections (<1.0 ppb).

**This case will be closed without further notice unless significant public comment is received prior to Sept. 8, 2003. Please contact Beth Lamb at (707) 576-2669 if you have any questions.**